WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A gasket for sealing a lower body of an engine to an upper body of the engine, the engine having a rocker member adapted to rock about an axis intermediate the rocker member and a pushrod, the rocker member located in the upper body, the pushrod extending from the lower body to the upper body and engaging an end of the rocker member, the gasket comprising:

a sealing portion adapted to substantially seal at least a portion of the upper body to the lower body; and

a pushrod support portion extending outwardly from the sealing portion adapted to engage the pushrod, at least a portion of the pushrod support portion engaging the pushrod is constructed from a material that is softer than the material of the pushrod.

2. The gasket of claim 1 wherein the upper body comprises a rocker box and the lower body comprises a head and the sealing portion is adapted to substantially seal at least a portion of the rocker box to the head.

3. The gasket of claim 1 wherein the upper body comprises a valve cover and the lower body comprises a head and the sealing portion is adapted to substantially seal at least a portion of the valve cover to the head.

4. The gasket of claim 1 wherein at least a portion of the pushrod support portion engaging the pushrod comprises a material selected from the group consisting of a polymer and cellulose.

5. The gasket of claim 4 wherein the pushrod is constructed from a material comprising metal.

6. The gasket of claim 1 wherein the sealing portion comprises substantially the same material as the pushrod support portion.

7. The gasket of claim 1 wherein the pushrod support portion further comprises a substantially C-shaped opening adapted to receive the pushrod and substantially support against lateral movement of the pushrod.

8. The gasket of claim 1 wherein the pushrod support portion further comprises an aperture adapted to receive the pushrod and substantially support the pushrod in relation to the pushrod support portion.

9. The gasket of claim 8 further including polymeric materials deposited on a metallic gasket.

10. The gasket of claim 7 further including a polymeric material formed on a metallic gasket.

11. An engine having one or more valves operated by a pushrod, comprising:

an engine block assembly;

a head mounted on the engine block assembly, the head at least partially receiving the pushrod and the one or more valves;

an upper body mounted on the head; and

a gasket between the head and the upper body, the gasket having a sealing portion adapted to substantially seal the upper body to the head and a pushrod supporting tab extending outward from the sealing portion and engaging the pushrod, at least a portion of the pushrod supporting tab engaging the pushrod is adapted to wear away when the engine is operated.

12. The engine of claim 9 wherein the upper body is a valve cover.

13. The engine of claim 9 wherein the upper body is a rocker box.

14. The engine of claim 9 wherein the pushrod comprises metal and the gasket comprises at least one of a polymer material and a cellulosic material.

15. The engine of claim 9 wherein the gasket and pushrod supporting tab comprise a polymer material.

16. The engine of claim 9 further comprising tab supporting members carried by the head adapted to support the pushrod supporting tab substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the pushrod.

17. A method of assembling a portion of an engine assembly, comprising:

placing a gasket having pushrod engaging member on a lower engine body, the pushrod engaging member adapted to wear away during operation of the engine;

placing an elongate pushrod in the engine body and in abutting engagement with the pushrod engaging member of the gasket; and

supporting the elongate pushrod substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the elongate pushrod with the gasket.

18. The method of claim 15 further comprising installing a rocker that receives the pushrod at one end to the engine body without further substantially aligning the rocker and the pushrod.

19. The method of claim 15 wherein the lower engine member is an engine head.

20. The method of claim 15 wherein the pushrod comprises metal and at least a portion of the pushrod engaging member comprises a polymer and a cellulosic material.

21. The method of claim 15 further comprising inserting the pushrod into a pushrod engaging aperture of the pushrod engaging member.

22. The method of claim 15 further comprising supporting the pushrod engaging member on a support stub carried by the engine body.

23. A gasket for sealing a lower body of an engine to an upper body of the engine, the engine having a rocker member that engages a pushrod extending from the lower body to the upper body, the gasket comprising:

a sealing portion adapted to substantially seal at least a portion of the upper body to the lower body; and

a pushrod support portion extending outwardly from the sealing portion adapted to engage and support the pushrod in rough alignment with an end of the rocker member prior to engaging the rocker member with the pushrod and adapted to reside out of substantial contact with the pushrod after engaging with the rocker member with the pushrod.

24. The gasket of claim 23 wherein the upper body comprises a rocker box and the lower body comprises a head and the sealing portion is adapted to substantially seal at least a portion of the rocker box to the head.

25. The gasket of claim 23 wherein the upper body comprises a valve cover and the lower body comprises a head and the sealing portion is adapted to substantially seal at least a portion of the valve cover to the head.

26. The gasket of claim 23 wherein at least a portion of the pushrod support portion engaging the pushrod comprises a material selected from the group consisting of a polymer and cellulose.

27. The gasket of claim 23 wherein the sealing portion comprises substantially the same material as the pushrod support portion.

28. The gasket of claim 23 wherein the pushrod support portion further comprises a substantially C-shaped opening adapted to receive the pushrod and substantially support against lateral movement of the pushrod.

29. The gasket of claim 23 wherein the pushrod support portion further comprises an aperture adapted to receive the pushrod and substantially support the pushrod in relation to the pushrod support portion.

30. The gasket of claim 23 wherein the at least a portion of the pushrod support portion engaging the pushrod is constructed from a material that is softer than the material of the pushrod.

31. A method of assembling a portion of an engine assembly, comprising:

placing a gasket having pushrod engaging member on a lower engine body;

placing an elongate pushrod in the engine body and in abutting engagement with the pushrod engaging member of the gasket;

supporting the elongate pushrod substantially laterally to a longitudinal axis of the elongate pushrod member with the gasket; and

engaging the elongate pushrod with a rocker member thereby moving the elongate pushing member substantially out of engagement with the gasket.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein engaging the pushrod with the rocker member comprises engaging the pushrod with the rocker member without further substantially aligning the rocker member and the elongate pushrod.

33. The method of claim 31 wherein the lower engine member is an engine head.

34. The method of claim 31 wherein the elongate pushrod comprises metal and at least a portion of the pushrod engaging member comprises a polymer and a cellulosic material.

35. The method of claim 31 further comprising inserting the elongate pushrod into a pushrod engaging aperture of the pushrod engaging member.

36. The method of claim 32 further comprising supporting the pushrod engaging member on a support stub carried by the engine body.